

JDW:

8/24/75

The best and the ~~brightest~~ ^{brightest} are neither good enough nor bright enough.

While I work off the weariness that after seven hours of sleep ought wear off I want to record this different aspect of the kind of attitude and practise that represents another aspect of what helps the dishonest ones in government so much. It has been a disappointment and if it ended upbeat and pleasant I'm not ~~at~~ at all sure that I can depend on it staying that way.

Floyd had taken a day off to rest from heavy labors and emotional exhaustion preparing for and at the NSA convention. I'm not persuaded that anything the NSA does can have any significance but Floyd has more than earned all the help he can get and these kids going to to their campuses can be of help. So, when Floyd phoned me from the beach Friday morning and said he was returning in a rush and would I please be there for counsel and in case he needed a fireman I went. To the Univ. Md. caucus suite at the Myafflower, where it was held.

He was overconfident that the arrangements he had made would hold. As soon as he was not there the NSA hierarchy started working against him, effectively. Lil warned him against this, telling him he would have to be there to keep control. But he was too pooped.

I stayed in that room until 3 a.m., when I went to the floor to see how it was going and if I'd get any sleep. He returned at 4:30, we then left for his home near College park for less than three hours of sleep before the next day, yesterday, started with an assassinations workshop at 9:30 a.m. (Fearing leaving the hotel and having eaten nothing I went to the coffee shop for juice, an egg and coffee and it actually cost \$4.00!)

Off and on during the day and night before the Lowenstein people kept coming in to talk to me. A bigger bunch of polite ingrates I never saw. It was again aparent that their dedication is to him personally and that they do nothing without his word on it. It is clear that they ask and follow orders on everything.

Floyd had done as I suggested and had the hierarchy over-ridden on Al. Instead of his having to hold a rump meeting and incurring still more dislike and enmity our whole thong was made part of the official program, even to a room for a press conference. It was to have been a press conference on all three assassinations. I helped write the press release. Meaning rewriting it by phone, to give it the right tone and approach. I was in on the politicking and it was my advice that worked. It was to have been for all of us. While talking to these kids I learned that Al wanted it for himself alone. I told them that the situation is one in which he would get all the attention, that I wanted him to get the attention (and they knew because it is I who tried to make him the only speaker on the subject), but that it would look veery bad if the other two assassinations were forced out and if there were new public signs of disunity. I also told them it was probable that there would come a point at which I could give him a big boost. I almost made what would have been a big mistake. If Floyd had been there and I'd had someone I could trust, I'd have had xeroxes of what is in the enclosed letter to the Enquirer and have given it to them for him. I told them that neither Jim nor I wanted any attention and that the interest of the press would be on the new RFK stuff only, with the prejudices of the DC press guaranteeing that there would be no interest in Jim or me. But that it would also be bad for the NSA and the future for him to hog for himself their facilities for himself only. Nothing made any difference. During the course of the day and night all three of his honchos were with me for long periods. They finally said I ought to talk it over with him. They then arranged not to take me to the airport when they went for him so I couldn't. When they returned and Floyd saw them he asked them to ask Al to let me use Al's room to nap in until they needed me because I'd been getting no sleep and then had been up more than 20 hours. They never came back to him and never once helped with any of the lobbying or approaches to any delegation for votes on the resolution. They let him do all the work and reaped the harvest.

We had good sources inside the hierarchy as a result of Floyd's work and partly I believe because of the effect of the visit here of several he had brought up earlier. One was forced out during all of this. So we also knew that the hierarchy claimed to have evidence that when Al was head of NSA, when it was on the CIA boat, he also took money personally. I thought this over when Floyd told me about it and figured out how I might be able to turn it around if they tried to use it publicly, their threat. It did not materialize. Floyd then also told me of their refusal to let me take a nap and of their staying distant.

Ink the course of talking to Al's people I finally extracted from them the reason for keeping this distance when we had done all for them, not us. He feared being contaminated by bracketing with "conspiracy theorists." It was then that I decided not to contaminate further with the one file I'd taken with me other than the 1/22 transcript, which I planned to use in my part of the workshop. (I was so tired by then I didn't know what I was saying but it went away even though I later realized how much I didn't say that I'd planned to.

I told the kids that I was not about to force my way, that if Al didn't want us there I'd not be there and Jim would not be, but that the consequences would not be good. The one thing needed, I told them, was no public sign of disunity. But they should be aware that he might suffer.

Al and I met only by accident the next morning, yesterday. He had to see a legislative assistant with whom I was sitting. He asked me where I'd be in 15 minutes so he could come back and talk, I told him and he didn't. For an hour. Jim came, I cued him in and we just sat. Finally Al sent for us and asked us to be at the press conference, which he did hog. We elected to sit in the audience, not with him. He made the proper gestures at the beginning and he did not start it until we were there so he could.

I then turned out that what he went into in the RFK case is exactly as I'd thought, where we could have backstopped him fantastically with our new court case, item for item, the difference being we had the proof in a court record and under oath and he was merely stating a problem he was just approaching. If there had been any prior discussion we could have given him stacks of sworn and 100% relevant evidence to cite. I relented when I saw how it was going and spoke to each of his three honchos to get a word to Al by a note, not to close without a word with me, after explaining the relevance. The first two did nothing and the took too long to think it over. He then handed me a note he was going to give Al. It would have told Al nothing. At this late point the lights went off and TV was over. However, I decided to tell Al for those who came up to him. When I went up he didn't stop talking. When he spoke to the third reporter without asking me if I had a purpose I just left.

As soon as his people had a chance to talk to him - after I gave them hell for not doing it and explained to them what he lost - he looked me up and asked about us having lunch-supper after our workshop was over. During it he learned a little more about what we did. He suggested to me that we cut it short so we'd have time to talk before he caught his plane. I did claiming I had a bus to catch. We then did have lunch-at 3 p.m. It went well and pleasantly and he wound up saying he wanted to help us. One of his three people was with us. (The authoritarianism of it surprised me. ~~He said~~ ~~and they did~~ He said and they did. I suppose this is really the only way to get things done but it did surprise me, not beginning then but from the first. He has a TV confrontation coming up with Belin and wanted help. I provided it. He didn't ask the one of his three still with us if it was possible for him to stay in D.C. and I know that kid was broke. He merely asked when he had to be back at Notre Dame, the kid said and Al told him to help us. How else, Al wanted to know when he learned how close I am to getting Post Mortem out and I told him it was then too late, that the time on which any help on other than mechanical work could be help had passed, that it would take too long to prepare anyone except a typist but that there was other work

that could help us both, though. I told him that Howard was coming and that if Howard had time he'd put together what I have for him (the Enquirer letter). He merely told the kid, Phil, to stay and help in whatever way he could.

His reide came and he went for his plane.

Meanwhile, Phil had been drinking it all in and learned of us and our work what he didn't know. He also observed Al's attitude and reaction. So, he was turned on. I had two hours before my bus so we sat at the table of the sidewalk cafe and I laid out for him what to get where in the Archives to send to Al for his TV show and Jim and I laid out how he could do library work on spectro and NAAs that could help Al in his litigation and us on appeal.

Phil stayed with us until he had to return to the convention. He even walked part of the way to the bus station. His apparent determination is to see if they can raise some money at Notre Dame to help. The first project Jim suggested is the money to pay for the printing of the appeal in CA 226-75. When we told him what that appeal will include he seemed excited. We also told him other ways and gave him an indication of the conditions under which we have to work.

We'll see.

However, here we have still another case of those with means staying out of communication, reasons apparently including foolishness, when it is more against their interest than ours. I'd kept telling all Al's people that there had to be communication. I'd even offered to drive to the airport and get him when for myself I'd not be using my car. But until they had word from him that he wanted communication they prevented it, as he did when he got to the Mayflower, close to 5 hours before I left Saturday before daylight. He apparently paid no attention if they told him what I'd started warning them against days earlier.

I told them beginning Friday night that he was a new face in DC and a former Congressman with a good advance press and the new angle in the press so it was inevitable that they'd get good press attendance but that he'd have nothing to say that he hadn't said and he'd not get the benefit possible without help I could give. They even needed help on who to call except the TV nets and the wire services. They didn't even know about Westinghouse. I told them and before daylight I heard Westinghouse's coverage today, so it worked, too.

But from what Lil saw on TV, he got attention in LA Friday night but none on this last night despite the good coverage. Maybe elsewhere it was different. ABC and NBC were there because their cameras were identified. There were others.

What I've known for months ABC has announced, that they are also doing a special. Policoff phoned and told Lil: the 20th Century fund is funding! NBC hasn't announced but my word from inside ABC is that they are considering. This can account for the filming without use. Clips of the film will be good. Al was effective.

~~XXI~~ We all lost much by his not knowing what he could have used that was new. Maybe I'll be able to sell part that I was not able to give away.

Best,